

Frankfort, November 2, 1961

A - COMPLETELY RELIABLE
B - USUALLY RELIABLE
C - FAIRLY RELIABLE
D - NOT USUALLY RELIABLE
E - NOT RELIABLE
F - CANNOT BE JUDGED

1 - TRUE
2 - PROBABLY TRUE
3 - POSSIBLY TRUE
4 - DOUBTFUL
5 - PROBABLY FALSE
6 - CANNOT BE JUDGED

GERMAN ADVISORS IN EGYPT

A West German military source reports that for some months a German group, which advises the Egyptian Defense Ministry on military and arms industry questions, as well as tactical and technical matters, has been building up in Cairo. It is directly under the General Staff and is supported by King Farouk himself.

The German technical personnel are divided into two groups, one military and one technical.

General Fahrbacher is occupied with the setting up of the military group. He is an artilleryist, in peace time the Commander of the 5th Infantry Division, then commanding General of the VII Corps, then of the XXVII Corps, later an Army group Commander in Normandy and the defender of Lorient. General Fahrbacher, himself, assembled his staff of advisors, and his first group consisted of Colonel Muenzel, Chief of Staff, and Captain zur See von Bercholzheim as Naval Advisor, who came to Egypt in May of this year.

In August, the second group arrived under the leadership of General Braun, an artilleryist, Commander of the 3rd Bavarian Mountain Division, who took care of bringing more officers from Germany. Recently there have been no more German arrivals, which would seem to indicate that the extension of the staff is completed. It is possible that there will be a further extension in the spring.

At present, there are in the German group the following advisors:

General Fahrbacher (Artillery)
Colonel Muenzel (General Staff)
General Braun (Artillery)
Captain Bercholzheim (Navy)
Herr Wenzinger (Civilian, Naval Artillery)
Colonel Mueller (Infra-red Specialist)
Colonel Boehmert
Colonel Du Bouchet (Munitions technical specialist)
Colonel Kurt Ferschel

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Captain Kowalski (former head of an army munition depot)
Major Mertins (Parachute Troops)
1st Lt. Koerger

An unconfirmed report tells that General Litzner has also been hired and General Fagerloin, who was formerly the second in command to Rommel, has been approached. Whether the brother of Captain zur See, General von Berchthold, former Military Attache in London, is there is not yet clear. On the recommendation of General Geyr von Schweppenburg, Colonel Litzner, who has special knowledge of anti-aircraft matters, was invited to Egypt. Whether he has accepted is uncertain.

The equipment and technical group was set up by Dr. Voss, a former director of the Skoda factory. Voss secured a number of technical engineers experienced with tanks, night sight, and rocket matters, who formerly worked for the Rheinmetall and Krupp firms.

The engineers come under a two year contract, renewable on both sides yearly, and terminable on three months' notice. They live with their families and receive 1000 RM monthly, tax free. Twenty-five German children go to schools. The Egyptian Government pays for the two-way transport of the families, rental cost for three rooms, and a yearly trip to Europe on a six-week vacation.

These conditions have made very good relations with the Egyptian officers possible. The two German groups have to reckon with the slow pace of oriental labor and the careless manner in which orders are carried out. German is widely known; the performance of the Afrika Corps has received much comment, and the reputation of Rommel has become almost legendary. Above everything, there is a violent hatred of the British, which in one way makes the work of the Germans easy, but on the other hand requires them to be prudent in order to avoid difficulties that might be produced by the British still present. The German officers, who come with official German passports and are carrying on their work with the knowledge of the German Government, keep strictly in the background in political affairs and limit themselves to their technical work. They give no tactical orders. The fact that, in contrast to the English and French, the Germans now have no political ambitions in the Near East, is, next to their recognized military skill, the strongest factor in their favor. It enabled them to overcome the resistance of the British. Obviously, the group of German advisers is closely watched by the British.

The first objective of the commission is the tactical reorganization of the Egyptian Army. After this, the emphasis will be on the building up and instruction of the artillery, including naval artillery. Later, the establishment of armored troops will be undertaken, and then a parachute unit will be formed. On the psychological side, the first need is to win

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over the older Egyptian officers and to persuade the younger ones to carry out their duties like soldiers. This can only be attained if real authority is established among the officers.

Besides these official groups of German technicians, there is another German group in Egypt which has no connection with these advisers. It consists of former extreme S.S. people, who are working with the Arab League. To this group belong, among others:

(SS-Oberfuhrer) Birlewanger
(SS-Standartenfuhrer) Bollmann
(SS-Gruppenfuhrer) Kazmann
Willy Beisenor (NSMA), alias Jaeger

Whether SS-Oberstirnbannfuhrer Eichmann (NSMA) is still in Egypt is not certain.

This group is very close to Jean Beauverd.

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